

Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



Vol. 48, No. 27

www.laughlin.af.mil

July 14, 2000

the inside scoop

Faith comforts POWs:

Base chaplain tells how several POWs put their faith in God and each other to make it through a POW camp...

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Hollywood spotlight:

Members of an Air Force Reserve unit participate in the making of "The Perfect Storm"...

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Career broadening:




Career broadening offers officers the chance to get jobs outside of their specialty areas...

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Mission status

(As of July 12)

Days ahead(+) or behind(-)

	+ .9
	+ .65
	- .2

Fiscal Year 2000 statistics

--Sorties flown: 51,609
--Hours flown: 76,341.5
--Pilot wings earned in FY 00: 250
--Wings earned since 1963: 11,615

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AETC commander visits Laughlin

By Airman 1st Class
Brad Pettit

Editor

Laughlin members got their first opportunity to meet the new Air Education and Training Command commander and his wife during their visit here Tuesday and Wednesday.

Gen. Hal Hornburg and his wife Cynthia toured base facilities and visited with several Laughlin members to help gauge the environment here. "My goal is to continue to foster an environment that will take our new airmen and trainees and make them productive in commands other than AETC," said the general. "I want to help create an atmosphere in AETC that will spill over into other commands, compliment them and promulgate their initiatives."

The general also expressed his primary goal for AETC – retention. "For each airman we lose, we have to recruit another one," said Hornburg. "My theory is that it's better to retain and train skilled airmen than to recruit and train unskilled airmen. Retention is going to be one of my highest emphasis items in the months to come," the general said. "But, our first and primary goal is to replenish the combat capability of the Air Force."

Hornburg emphasized the need to retain servicemembers in critical career fields. "We certainly have to pay attention to

the career fields that are causing us the most hurt right now," he continued. "Right here at Laughlin, for example, the air traffic control career field is one of the most critically manned Air Force specialty codes. If manning in this career field goes down past a certain level, it directly impacts the flying. If the flying is impacted, then it directly impacts production and graduation," explained Hornburg. "So, we have to look at the situation like that."

The AETC commander also expressed his concern for retaining members both in AETC and Air Force-wide. "I also want to look at it from a larger perspective. We need to retain not just critical fields, but retain overall," said Hornburg. "My approach to retention is the shotgun approach, not the rifle approach. I'm looking to scatter pellets over wide areas."

Another hot topic at Laughlin is the transition from the T-37 Tweet to the T-6 Texan. The general said we can expect only minor inefficiencies with the transition. "The T-37 has been a great airplane, but it's getting tired, which will make the T-6 Texan a welcome addition to the Air Force family of aircraft," said Hornburg. "When the T-6 starts coming aboard in 2002, we'll go through some growing pains at first because we'll be working with both the T-37 and the T-6 in a mixed op-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Reginal Woodruff

Gen. Hal Hornburg, AETC commander, bids a final farewell to Col. Larry Stutzriem, 47th Operations Group commander (shaking hands), Col. Herbert Foret, 47th Flying Training Wing vice commander and Lt. Col. Jerry Young, 47 OG vice commander, before his departure to Luke AFB.

eration. However, the T-6 will bring a lot of efficiencies because it's more economical, has more modern avionics and will give our basic flight students training in systems, avionics and efficiencies very similar to the type of aircraft they'll be flying in the future.

"Transitioning one out as we transition one in will be a growing pain. Operationally, though, we shouldn't see any difference whatsoever because the airplanes will be compatible – they share the same traffic patterns and fly the same airspeeds and altitudes as well," explained Hornburg. "I think the change

will work."

Before his departure, the general expressed his faith in the capability of both the Air Force and Laughlin members. "It has been a really positive visit for Cynthia and me here at Laughlin," said Hornburg. "Laughlin has a great reputation and its members earn this reputation on a daily basis. We are the best Air Force in the world and we have the best pilots. Laughlin does a lot to produce those pilots. I've seen very skilled, motivated and professional airmen of all ranks here at Laughlin and I commend all of them for the wonderful job they do."

"My theory is that it is better to retain and train skilled airmen than it is to recruit and train unskilled airmen. Retention is going to be the highest emphasis item of mine in the months to come. Our first and primary goal is to replenish the combat capability of the Air Force."

Commanders Corner

Faith helps prisoners of war survive captivity

How people survive life-shattering events has been something in which I have always been interested. I have had the opportunity to meet many heroes in my life, and found that most people who have survived traumatic events also have a high commitment to and belief in God. This spiritual connection to survivability was something I wanted to study. When I was accepted into a year-long program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, I chose the topic of Spiritual Resiliency of Survivors for my thesis. The groups I studied were the prisoners of war from the Viet Nam War, Korean War and World War II. Immediately, I found several differences between the Viet Nam POWs and the POWs of other wars.

The POWs from the Viet Nam era were on the whole, more highly educated than POWs of previous wars, most having college degrees. They were mostly mid-level pilots and were highly committed to the military. Most were married and had young families. Most had been in theatre many months and had successfully completed many bombing raids over North Viet Nam. All of my interviewees were highly committed to God. Most grew up in Christian homes and as children and adults regularly attended church. All had very positive spiritual growth in their college years, being active in Campus Crusade for Christ, or Officer's Christian Fellowship.

Each of my 230 POW interviewees mentioned several things that got them through their times of torture, pain and separation. However, all of the POWs had four common beliefs that helped them survive. One POW referred to these beliefs as "The Four Legged

Stool of the POW."

The first leg of this belief system held by the POWs was a deep belief in God. My interviewees had grown up in Christian homes, attended church regularly and professed a personal relationship with God. Each of these men stated that their ordeal brought them into a new and much deeper relationship with God. Before their capture, they had believed, trusted and professed God, but during their capture they grew in their understanding of God. They saw God was with them, loved them and would get them through this experience. They all stated that they knew God had not deserted them. It was faith in God that these POWs credited with getting them through their ordeal.

The second leg of this stool was a deep and profound belief in themselves. Because they discovered God's deep love for them, they knew that their lives mattered. They learned to look beyond their captivity and began to see that their lives were part of God's bigger and mysterious plan - a plan that they could not completely see, but one that was still there nevertheless. Because they saw themselves and their captivity as part of God's plan, they could face more faithfully the days of isolation, torture and separation from their loved ones. Knowing they were part of a plan helped them to encourage their fellow prisoners.

The third leg of this stool was a belief in their fellow prisoners. They knew they could count on one another for encouragement and emotional support in every area of life. "My cell mate was there for me," said one POW, "from the most brutal beating to the slightest head cold, he cared for and encouraged me." One of the repatriated POWs told me that one of the main reasons his

marriage ended in divorce was that his wife could not give him the same degree of emotional support that his cell mate had given him during their time at the Hanoi Hilton.

Finally, each of these POWs said what kept them going was knowing that the United States of America was working around the clock for their release. Each night, many of these men concluded their prayers to God with The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States. Deep within their souls they knew that their country would not forget or forsake them. This deep sense of patriotism was the fourth leg of their belief system.

None of us will endure the things that our POWs endured in Viet Nam, but we can use and adapt their four-legged stool to meet our particular challenge. Be we students trying to survive our pilot training, or a commander trying to take care of our people, or an airman trying to keep up with our workload, we can be encouraged by our POWs. May we (like they) find encouragement in life's challenges as we remember to believe in God, believe in ourselves, believe in those around us and believe in our country.

"...each of these POWs said what kept them going was knowing that the United States of America was working around the clock for their release. Each night, many of these men concluded their prayers to God with The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States."



Other than "Old Glory", the POW-MIA flag (above) is the only flag to fly over the White House.

Col. Winfield W. Scott III
Commander
1st Lt. Angela O'Connell
Public affairs officer
Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit
Editor

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"Excellence – not our goal, but our standard."

– 47 FTW motto

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Submissions can be E-mailed to: bradley.pettit@laughlin.af.mil or reginal.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil

Don't do it, don't tolerate it!

Writing own performance reports is unethical, intolerable

By Maj. Paul Mejasich

Air Expeditionary Force Battlelab

Integrity is the first measure of performance. Unfortunately, I have noticed a disturbing trend during the last several years – a form of cheating that should never be tolerated in our profession.

In today's busy world of frequent deployments, joint assignments, complex reporting chains and busy supervisors, the responsibility of developing, writing and editing performance reports is being irresponsibly delegated to the ratee.

I've heard many justifications and rationales for this practice. Some people believe the environment is too competitive to do otherwise. Others believe their supervisors are unable to adequately develop a good officer or enlisted performance report. In the worst cases, it is

the standard operating procedure.

During my career, I've had to directly confront two supervisors on this issue of fulfilling their responsibility. More frequently I seem to be confronting peers who develop their own reports.

Air Force instructions state the raters will not have the ratee write any portion of his or her own report. The ratee may provide the rater input on specific achievements.

In today's Air Force, however, many ratees are spending increasing time at their computers crafting their reports with the secret language of performance analysis and promotion recommendation jargon. They are providing near-finished products to their supervisors, which only require minor editing before a signature is applied. The opportunity for self-perfor-

mance analysis has never been made simpler or more advantageous.

Supervisors also have their own justification for this practice. Some loosely interpret the AFI or recognize the practice as just playing the game. Others appreciate the effort and time saved. Some supervisors may be embarrassed to admit they have participated in writing their own reports or tolerated others doing the same.

Rarely, if ever, do peers and supervisors make this issue an integrity concern. Supervisors may assume the written language of the AFI satisfactorily provides for the necessary intervention.

The consequence of this type of abuse is enormous. It will happen more frequently without direct command and peer intervention. On-the-spot peer

corrections and integrity calls are needed to solve this problem.

A civilian business acquaintance once told me I should take advantage of writing my own report card if given a chance. "Take every advantage possible to get and stay ahead," he said. "You are your own best career advocate and manager." For this person, advancement and opportunity were more important than personal integrity.

I see it differently. Bring integrity back to the OPR/EPR process. Integrity, like opportunity, requires active and constant vigilance. Integrity is the first measure of your performance.

Make honor and integrity a way of life and you will take great comfort in their protection of your reputation. Integrity first and always.

Base strives to reach disability employment rate of 12 percent

By Sabrina Pena

47th Mission Support Squadron

Did you know that the Air Force goal for persons with disabilities in the civilian workforce is 12 percent, and the goal for targeted disabilities is 2 percent?

Currently, Laughlin has less than one percent permanent civil service employees with a targeted disability. A "targeted" disability is defined as total deafness, blindness, missing extremities, partial or complete paralysis, convulsive disorders, mental retardation, mental illness and distortion of limbs.

Managers often cringe when they hear an employee or a potential employee needs an accommodation in the work site. They sometimes think that the accommoda-

tion will cost most of their budget, and it would be easier to just hire someone without a disability. Reality is that reasonable accommodations are not at all costly and there are experts to turn to for assistance.

The Job Accommodation Network is a service provided by the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. This toll-free information and referral provides help on job accommodations for people with disabilities, on the employment provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and on resources for technical assistance, funding, education and services related to the employment of people with disabilities. JAN can be accessed by phone at 1-800-526-7234 or 1-800-ADA-WORK (1-800-232-9675) or by Internet at <http://www.jan.wvu.edu/english/homeus.htm>.

Another great project of JAN is "Searchable Online Accommodation Resource" project located on the Internet at <http://www.jan.wvu.edu/soar/index.html>.

See 'Accommodation' page 6

Currently, Laughlin has less than one percent permanent civil service employees with a targeted disability.

Men at work to improve base

Eddie Solis, Crawford Plumbing, cuts conduit to remove and install a sewer line for the new base operations complex/RAPCON control tower that is currently under construction. The project is scheduled to be completed Aug. 1, 2001.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Actionline

Call 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also

be printed in the *Border Eagle*. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.



Winfield W. Scott III

Col. Winfield W. Scott III

47th Flying Training Wing commander

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810
Equal Opportunity	298-5400
FWA hotline	298-4170

Reservists help create 'The Perfect Storm'

By Jim Miller

Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

In recent years, the Air Force has become more involved in supporting major Hollywood film productions. The latest big-screen venture is "The Perfect Storm," a Warner Brothers feature film released June 30 in theaters nationwide.

"We've been on a long roll for the last three or four years with the biggest summer movies involving the Air Force," said Chuck Davis, chief of television and motion pictures in the Air Force's regional public affairs office in Los Angeles. "Other major productions involving the Air Force in recent years are 'Air Force One,' 'Armageddon' and 'Tomorrow Never Dies.'"

In a scene from "The Perfect Storm," members of the Air Force Reserve Command's 305th Rescue Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., and the Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing, Moffett Field, Calif., simulated the rescue of stranded fishermen off the coast of New England.

"The production team was very interested in keeping the Air Force's participation as accurate as possible, which is one of the reasons we got involved," said Col. Kent Clark, 305th RQS commander.

Based on a book of the same title by author Sebastian Junger, film director Wolfgang Petersen, who also directed "Air Force One," drew on the talents of George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio and other stars to bring the story to life.

"The Perfect Storm" is actually about three storm systems that came together in October 1991 to create an unusually severe weather condition.

Before the filming began, members of the cast and crew attended a one-week pararescue training camp in Arizona. They learned the purposes of the helicopter's dials and switches, flew on a helicopter during a simulated rescue mission, were hauled from a lake by harness into a hovering helicopter and took part in night-vision goggle training.

Quoted on the movie's official Web site, actor Dash Mihok, who plays a pararescue specialist, said, "The parajumper program gave us a chance to experience what a rescue operation was like. You're down in the water with a chopper only 50 to 60 feet above you and it's hard to see, breathe and communicate. It really gives you an appreciation for the skills and concentration that these guys have to have. When it came time for us to do those scenes on stage, we understood a lot of what was involved.

"Sitting in the water for 10 minutes waiting for the camera to roll, then hearing the sound of the fans get more and more deafening, and the wave-makers bobbing you up and down like apples in a barrel – it all felt a lot like what we went through in training," he said. "My character was supposed to be unconscious during part of this scene and that was hardest for me. If I started drowning, I was supposed to stop and let them know. It was pretty intense."

Two HH-60G helicopters from the 305th RQS and two from the 129th RQW, along with associated aircrew members, pararescue specialists and aircraft

"We've been on a long roll for the last three or four years with the biggest summer movies involving the Air Force. Other major productions involving the Air Force in recent years are 'Air Force One,' 'Armageddon,' and 'Tomorrow Never Dies.'"

-Chuck Davis

*Chief of television and motion pictures,
Air Force regional public affairs office, Los Angeles*

maintainers, flew to California to participate in the filming. Their portion of the filming was conducted at Channel Island ANG Base, Calif., in August 1999, with additional work on sound stages at Warner Brothers Studios.

"It was particularly interesting to be in on the behind-the-scenes activities," said Maj. Glenn Schumacher, a 305th RQS aircraft commander. "It's incredible the amount of work and detail that goes into putting a movie together."

Members of the 305th RQS put in 16 flying hours, performing a variety of day and nighttime maneuvers and internal cockpit shots.

Two brothers – Master Sgt. Steve Lupenski from the 305th RQS and Maj. Al Lupenski from the 301st RQS, Patrick AFB, Fla. – lent their expertise to the movie.

"Steve went to Hollywood three or four times for a day or two on official travel orders, and Al served as aerial coordinator," said Davis. "Their influence is easy to spot throughout the movie."

Davis said the studio reimbursed the government for rental cars, rooms and travel and paid for all costs associated with flying. The units involved were fully reimbursed for any associated costs.

Another Air Force Reserve Command unit contributed to the movie, although there was no travel involved. Researchers and writers spoke to officials from the 403rd Wing, Keesler AFB, Miss., several times via telephone to learn how the "Hurricane Hunters" track tropical storms and hurricanes.

"They wanted to know if the plane ride is bumpy, if it bounces around a lot," said Davis. "The unit also talked them through the dropsonde (weather-gathering device) process and sent them stock footage from weather missions. The producers didn't use any of the stock footage, but it made it possible for the film crew to recreate a mission."

Other Air National Guard units that supported "The Perfect Storm" are the 146th Airlift Wing, Port Hueneme, Calif., and the 106th RQW, Westhampton Beach, N.Y.

Davis already has a pretty good idea of which units will be called on to help with the next Air Force-supported Hollywood production.

"The next major production we hope to have will be about the pararescue mission," he said.

AAFES recalls Today's Kids toy

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service in conjunction with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Today's Kids, of Dallas, is recalling more than 103,000 spinning ride toys.

A center column on the "Music & Lights Kidaround Spinner" can break, causing the child to suddenly fall backward, or be hit in the face by the broken column. Consumers should take these spinning ride toys away from children immediately.

Today's Kids has received 1,427 reports of the toys' columns breaking off, resulting in five injuries. Injuries include bumps on heads, cut faces and split lips.

The toy is a purple turntable with a green column through the middle, which is topped by a yellow steering wheel. The child sits on the turntable and spins around by turning on the steering wheel. The toy plays five songs and lights flash while the child is spinning.

The toy's packaging indicates it is intended for children 1 1/2 to 5 years old. A sticker on the center of the steering wheel reads, "Today's Kids." The battery cover, on the side of the green column reads, "MADE IN CHINA." The bottom of the turntable reads, "MADE IN U.S.A." Customers should look for model number 916, Item 495406447, UPC 022983009160, and CRC 4456696.

The company has issued instructions for obtaining a free replacement spinning toy. Consumers should remove the bolt from the bottom of the spinner and throw away the washer found on the bolt, so a child can't choke on it. Next, unscrew the battery cover and cut the ribbon attaching the cover to the column of the toy. For safety reasons, keep the batteries out of a child's reach and throw the rest of the toy away immediately and do not let anyone play with any of the parts. Finally, wrap the removed bolt and the battery cover in a single piece of paper and place in a standard envelope

See 'Toy' page 8

Drinking water data made available in new CCR report

The Consumer Confidence Report for the Laughlin drinking water system will be available starting Oct. 19.

This drinking water quality report is a new federal requirement to annually provide the consuming public with information on the source, treatment and monitoring of the base drinking water.

The report, produced by Capt. Carl Sepulveda, 47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron, Bioenvironemtnal Engineering Flight, will be mailed to base residents.

Nonresidents can access this report on the following website via computers on the base network only:

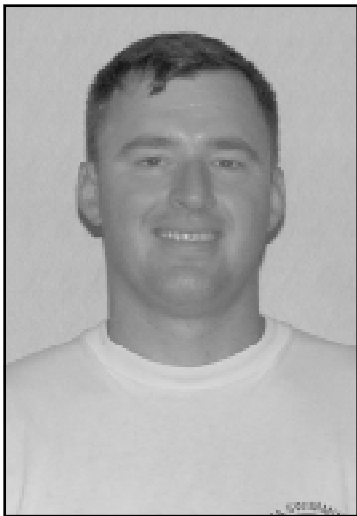
<http://www.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/med/ccr>.

Copies of this public report will also be made available at the base library. Comments and questions can be submitted, and answers to frequently asked questions found, via the website.

For further questions on the availability of this report, please contact public affairs at 298-5988.

Question of the week

What is your dream assignment?



“Flying shuttles with NASA or a T-38 Ace.”

Capt.
Jason Wierzbanowski
84th Flying Training Squadron



“Public affairs at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.”

2nd Lt. Clint Fisher
47th Operations Support Squadron



“Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.”

Master Sgt.
Jimmie Davis
47th Security Forces Squadron



“Aviano AB, Italy.”

Senior Airman
Mike Vaughn
47th Civil Engineer Squadron



From the Blotter

(From June 30-July 8)



■ A military member was apprehended after being charged with being drunk on duty. A blood alcohol test was conducted and he was released to his first sergeant.

■ A flightline worker reported a bag had been left in the back of the fire department. A cordon was established and the area was evacuated. Investigation revealed the bag was left unattended by a student pilot.

■ Ten military members requested assistance gaining entry into their vehicles due to keys being locked inside. Security Forces patrolmen gained access to all vehicles without damage.

■ A military member reported a rattlesnake had bitten his dog. Entomology personnel killed the snake. The dog is ok.

■ A military member driving a government owned vehicle collided with a Ford Mustang at the intersection of Liberty and Colorado. Investigation revealed the GOV driver was trying to untangle an object from her seatbelt and not paying attention. The driver was charged with inattentive driving.

■ A civilian reported an Oldsmobile driven by

another civilian hit his parked Chevy Lumina on the passenger door. Damages consisted of one dent approximately ten inches in length and three inches in width to the passenger side door.

■ A military member driving a privately owned vehicle hit a parked Police car. Damages to the vehicle consisted of white paint transfers and scratches to the drivers side rear bumper.

Tip of the week: Wing directives require our gates to be closed during alarm activations. This is to prevent a perpetrator from leaving the base after a theft. Security Forces exercises are normally conducted during low traffic hours and the gate is not normally closed during these exercises. Calling us on your cell phones to find out if it is an exercise, or to find out how long the gate will stay closed only slows down our dispatchers and hinders our response to the alarm. Please bear with us during these necessary measures. We get the gates open as soon as we safely can.

Numerous items of found property have been turned in to security forces. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Lavalle Jenkins at 5249.

**‘Accomodation’
from page 2**

This system is designed to let users explore various accommo-
dation options for persons with
disabilities in the work setting.
Naturally, it is impossible for
them to cover every option, but it
is a great place to start. If there
is not an accommodation option
presented for your specific situa-

tion, you can contact this office
at 1-800-526-7234 (Voice/TTY).
Remember, all information
discussed with JAN is com-
pletely confidential.
Truth about accommodations
■ Job Accommodations are
usually not expensive
■ Job Accommodations may be
as simple as a rearrangement of
equipment
■ Job Accommodations can

reduce workers’ compensation
and other insurance costs
■ Job Accommodations can
increase the pool of qualified
employees
■ Job Accommodations can
create opportunities for persons
with functional limitations
Examples of accommodation
■ Providing a drafting table,
page turner and pressure
sensitive tape recorder for a sales

agent paralyzed from a broken
neck (\$950)
■ Changing a desk layout from
the right to the left side for a
data entry operator who had a
shoulder injury (\$0)
■ Supplying a telephone ampli-
fier for a computer programmer
who was hard of hearing (\$56)
■ Providing a special chair for a
district sales agent to alleviate
pain caused by a back injury

(\$400)
■ Using an articulating keyboard
tray to alleviate strain of repeti-
tive motion and carpal tunnel
syndrome (\$150)
■ A pair of giant tweezers for a
production worker with mental
retardation, who has limited fine
motor dexterity, and must use
tweezers to perform his job (\$5)
So, what can you do? If you
have developed a disability since
you began working civil service,
complete a new “Self-Identifica-
tion of Handicap” SF-256 and
send it to Civilian Personnel lo-
cated in Building 77.

If you are a supervisor, rec-
ognize jobs within your organiza-
tion that can be filled with an in-
dividual with a disability and
keep in mind that it takes an ef-
fort to meet these attainable
goals.
For more information, con-
tact Sabrina Pena at 298-5327.
The next working group will
meet on July 27 at 2 p.m. in the
Family Support Center! Come
out and help make a difference
at Laughlin!

Hey!

**Double your
intake.**

If you aren’t
looking at the
United States
Air Force Online
News as an addi-
tional source of
information, you
aren’t getting all
of the news.
Check it out at:
**http://
www.af.mil/
newspaper**

Where are they now?

Name: Maj. Thomas L. Ayers.
Class/Date of graduation from Laughlin: 90-09, May 1990.
Aircraft you now fly and base you are stationed at: KC-10, McGuire AFB.
Mission of your aircraft? Tanker/receiver, AR/airlift.
What do you like most about your current aircraft? Versatility.
What do you dislike most about your current aircraft? Deployments.
What was the most important thing you learned at Laughlin besides learning to fly? As long as you are doing your best, stand tall and be proud of your accomplishments.
What is your most memorable experience from Laughlin? Celebration after assignment drops.
What advice would you give SUPT students at Laughlin? Do not doubt yourself. Do your best, but do not take things too seriously .



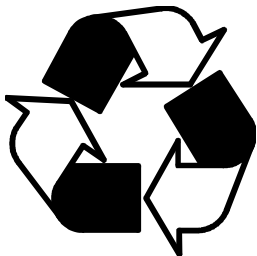
The XLER



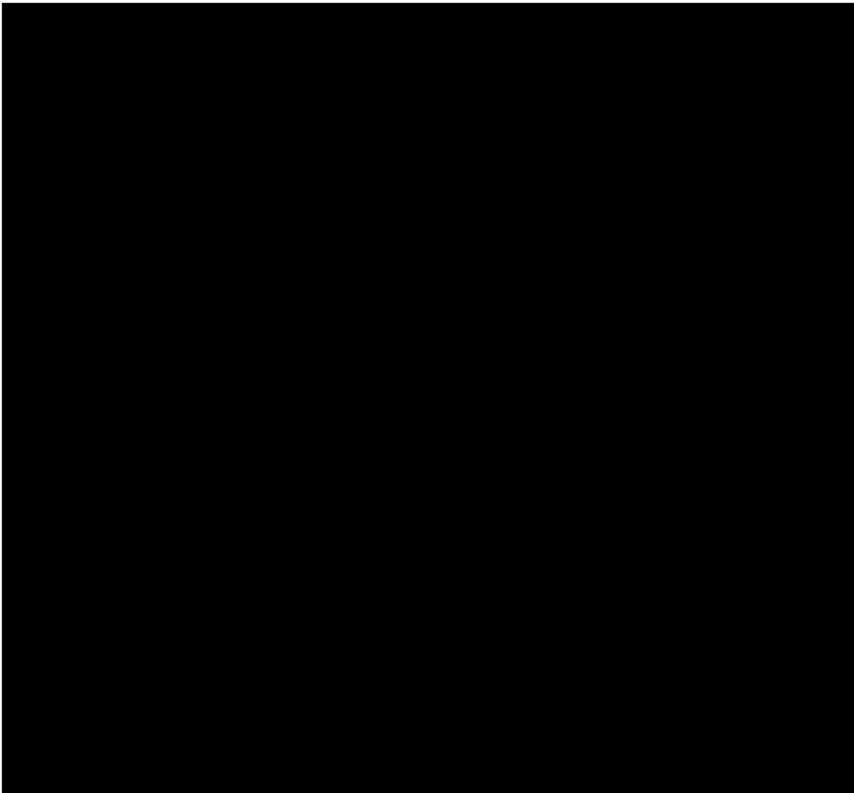
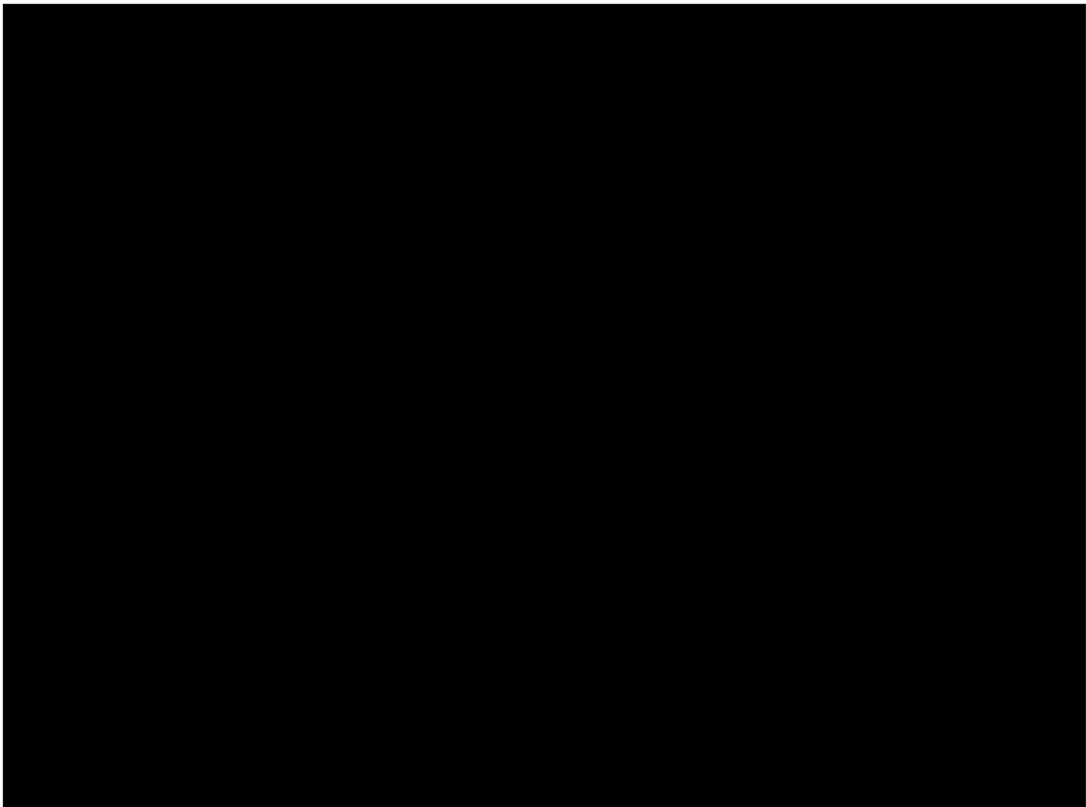
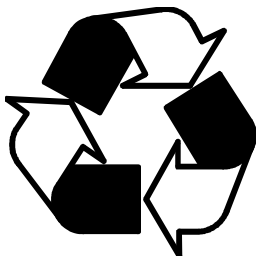
Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Chaplain (Capt.) James Bailey
Base chapel

Hometown: Oak Harbor, Wash.
Time at Laughlin: 13 months.
Time in service: 13 years (9 in the Air Force, 4 in the Army).
Why did you join the Air Force family? To serve the Air Force community as a Catholic Chaplain anywhere, anytime, under any conditions.
Name one way to improve life at Laughlin: Adopt Mrs. Lyndon Johnson's "beautification" program and employ it to improve the physical appearance of Laughlin.
Greatest accomplishment: Service with Air Force members on Operation Southern Watch, Operation Safe Haven and at Thule Air Base.
Motto: Acta non Verba (deeds, not words) and no-whining!
Bad habit: Come to the 47th Support Group staff meeting and see for yourself!
Favorite food, beverage: Fresh lobster tail and butter and Manhattan or sweet tea (depends on the social occasion and present company).
If you could spend one hour with an historical figure, who would it be and why? Abraham Lincoln. He had it in good with The Almighty. I want to learn more about his principles of leadership.



Recycle...



‘Toy’ from page 4

and send it to:
Today’s Kids 13630 Neutron Road Dallas, TX 75244.

Customers in the U.S. must use 44-cent postage on the envelope and overseas customers should use correct postage.

If a consumer has any additional questions about the recall, the company’s toll-free phone number is (800) 916-TOYS and they’re open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT. Or, visit the firm’s web site at www.todayskids.com.

Active-duty family members encouraged to update DEERS information

The Defense Enrollment Eligibility System is a worldwide database of active-duty family members, retirees and their family members and others who are eligible for Tricare benefits. Although active-duty service members and military retirees are automatically registered in DEERS, active-duty family members and eligible survivors must physically register.

Because DEERS information is not automatically updated, you must update your file when you move. When DEERS files are

outdated, problems arise. This is especially true of incorrect home addresses. Information listed in DEERS is frequently used to send out information about health benefits. About half of the addresses for AFDMs are estimated to be incorrect because DEERS was not updated when the families moved.

Problems also arise when DEERS is not notified of a change in the family status, such as marriage, divorce, birth or adoption. Your Tricare benefits may be denied because DEERS has not

been updated to reflect a new spouse or child. A claim may also be paid by mistake because DEERS has no record of divorce or death. With an incorrectly paid claim, the government is required by law to request reimbursement, regardless of whom is at fault.

You may update your DEERS information by:

- Going to the nearest military personnel office
- Emailing changes to addrinfo@osd.pentagon.mil
- Faxing changes to (408)

655-8317
■ Mailing changes to:
**DEERS Support Office
ATTN: COA
400 Gigling Road
Seaside, CA 93955-6771**

DEERS address changes may also be made on-line at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSAddress/>.

For more information, call the DEERS Support Office at 1-800-538-9552.

DEERS support office hours of operation are 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Pacific Time, Monday through Friday.

Transition Assistance Program offers advice to separating

By Mitchell C. Frazier
members

The civilian world can be scary. If you are planning to separate, you need to be prepared to make a successful transition to civilian life.

The Transition Assistance Program seminar is a 3-day seminar designed to prepare separating and retiring military and Department of Defense civilian members for work in the civilian world. The program consists of briefings on education, stress management, Veterans Administration, Tricare and survivors benefits. Additional topics covered are financial planning, personal appraisals, applying for jobs, resume writing, cover letters, reviewing job offers, the interview process, inter-

view basics and mock interviews.

The wing commander supports the TAP seminar and participation is highly encouraged. The Family Support Center conducts this seminar along with the participation of the Department of Labor and the Veterans Administration.

All seminars are held in the

Family Support conference room.

The Laughlin seminar affords the separating person with individual and personal attention due to the base's small size. We can actually address individual needs within the seminar itself. All participants have gone away with new skills and confidence to

use them.

Our instructor, Harry Forbes, and our individuals who brief are prepared to go that extra mile. Forbes has been instrumental in helping a lot of Laughlin folks get the careers of which they have always dreamed. His years in personnel and the military have allowed

him to forge a unique relationship with separating members upon their departure.

So, if you want a new career, or are transitioning to a similar one, this seminar will benefit you. To sign up for the next TAP seminar offered by the Family Support Center, call 5620.

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Abuse is
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job! If you
know or sus-
pect FWA,
call the FWA
Hotline, Ext.
4170, or call
the Inspector
General of-
fice, Ext.
5638.**

Routine Tricare Prime enrollment to take effect Oct. 1

Beginning Oct. 1, enrolling in Tricare Prime will be routine for active-duty family members, E-4 and below, who reside in the catchment area of a military treatment facility.

"We continually seek ways to make Tricare better and more convenient for our beneficiaries. Enrolling our junior enlisted family members in Tricare Prime will guarantee them priority access at the MTF, just like their active duty sponsors," said Dr.

H. James T. Sears, executive director, Tricare Management Activity.

"While the vast majority of our active-duty family members, E-4 and below are already enrolled in Prime, some may not be.

As we encounter these families who live in a catchment area, we will offer them the opportunity to enroll in Tricare Prime at the MTF, guaranteed," said Sears. "We plan to identify these families

when their sponsor goes through in-processing after a move or when they call the MTF to schedule an appointment for care. Unit commanders, first sergeants and others can also let us know if we have missed enrolling these families." Benefits of Tricare Prime enrollment for family members include priority access at the MTF (after active duty members), timely access to a designated primary care manager, and no deductible fees to pay or claim forms for members to file. Equally important, there are no enrollment fees, cost-shares, or co-payments for members who enroll and receive care at the MTF. There is, however, a co-payment of \$6 for family members who enroll and receive outpatient care from a Prime network civilian provider.

Family members will be notified in writing by a managed care support contract representative of their pending enrollment, and receive a current provider list of available MTF primary care managers. Mem-

bers can choose their own primary care manager, or decline enrollment. Family members who do not respond to the enrollment notification are enrolled in Prime and assigned a primary care manager.

Enrollment renewal occurs automatically unless the sponsor or responsible individual (i.e., an unremarried spouse, guardian, or custodial parent) declines, or is no longer eligible for Tricare Prime. Family members can transfer their enrollment an unlimited number of times between Tricare regions during the one year enrollment period.

Coverage for family members who enroll before the 20th of the month begins on the first day of the following month. Coverage for family members who enroll after the 20th of any given month begins on the first day of the second month.

When an active-duty member's rank changes (from E-4 to E-5 or above), family members retain the \$6 outpatient co-payment until the end of their current enrollment period. At the end of the enrollment period, family members can continue enrollment, but the \$6 co-payment for civilian care will increase to \$12.


"In general, we believe Tricare Prime is the best option for these families; however, enrollment in Prime may not be the best choice for every active-duty

Benefits of Tricare Prime enrollment for family members include priority access at the MTF (after active duty members), timely access to a designated primary care manager and no deductible fees to pay or claim forms for members to file.

family member, E-4 and below. Some active-duty family members with other primary health insurance may decide Tricare extra/standard offers greater flexibility than Prime," said Sears.

Family members may terminate their enrollment at any time. Sponsors or the members must notify their regional managed care support contractor to disenroll from Prime. The choice to accept enrollment, or to decline and use Tricare extra/standard benefits is voluntary.

Additional information on Tricare Prime enrollment is available on the Military Health System/Tricare Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>, or by contacting a local military treatment facility beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator, health benefits adviser, or Tricare service center representative.




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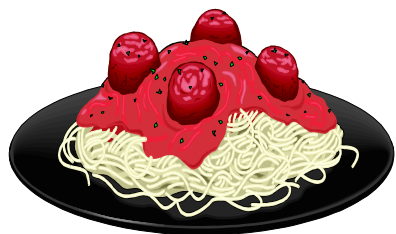

www.savingsbonds.gov

Food poisoning: Recent food-borne illnesses create scare in United States

By 1st Lt.

Thomas Sherbert

Weed Army Community Hospital,
Fort Irwin, Calif.



Food-borne outbreaks are one of the hottest topics in the headlines every week across the United States. Some recent headlines that have struck fear into our hearts and minds: "Bacteria sickens 4,000 in Chicago area," "Meat plant recalls 282,000 pounds of ground beef" and "Child's death blamed on E. coli."

Food-borne illnesses are surprisingly common, striking up to 80 million people each year and causing 9,000 deaths.

Food poisoning, food-borne intoxication and food-borne infections are terms applied to illnesses acquired through consumption of contaminated food or water.

The terms apply to illness caused by chemical contaminants, bacterial growth or noxious organic substances that may be present in natural foods. Food-borne illness outbreaks usually occur within a short period of time after consumption and among individuals who have consumed food in common.

Prevention and control of these illnesses are based on the simple principles of avoiding food contamination, following strict cooking, storage, reheating temperature guidelines and preventing the growth of contaminants.

Consumers can prevent most of the food-borne illnesses that occur at home. Unsanitary food practices are major contributors to outbreaks of food-borne illness.

Errors made in shopping, transportation, storage, preparation and serving of food can allow bacteria to survive and multiply. If done improperly, preparing food a day or more before serving and consumption can allow bacteria more time to multiply.

Proper hand washing is the number-one way to defeat bacteria. Wash your hands often and before handling or eating food.

Lately, the most dangerous bacterium has been E. coli 0517:H7. This strain of E. coli produces a toxin within the body that can damage the kidneys. Last year 20,000 people in the United States suffered from E.coli infections, resulting in 250 deaths.

If you think you have contracted a food-borne illness, report to your local emergency room for treatment. If you are a military medical beneficiary, contact the chief of environmental health at Preventive Medicine Services in order to initiate an investigation after you have received treatment.

Career broadening offers variety of opportunities for line officers

Air Force officers who want to enhance their career and experience something outside of their specialty should check out the opportunities offered through career broadening assignments.

There are a variety of positions available which give line officers an opportunity to get an expanded view of the Air Force and develop some skills they may not be able to develop in their own career field, said Lt. Col. Charles Kelker, career broadening branch chief.

With positions such as aide-de-camps, air attachés, exchange officers, Air University instructors, Basic Military Training or technical school commanders, international politico-military affairs and protocol, there are a number of opportunities available.

"The Air Force has been taking a strong look at developing leaders and one of the keys is to make sure the officer corps is broad in experience so they can succeed in a wealth of leadership positions," Kelker said. "Career broadening gives an officer that breadth of experience they might not get otherwise. For instance, someone in a specialty that does not have many overseas requirements may never get an opportunity to go overseas. If they want that experience, which is very valuable since we are an expeditionary force, they could volunteer for career broadening in an overseas area to gain that experience."

Officers who are interested in a career broadening assignment

"There are a variety of positions available which give line officers an opportunity to get an expanded view of the Air Force and develop some skills they may not be able to develop in their own career field."

-Lt. Col. Charles Kelker
Career broadening branch chief.

need to understand "there is a right time to do career broadening," according to Kelker. Historically, officers did career broadening after they've been in their career field between five and seven years. However, we are seeing more opportunities for field grade officers as the number of field grade career broadening requirements are increasing.

"There is no right time for everybody. It just depends on what they've done so far and if their primary career field manning can support temporarily losing the officer to a career broadening assignment."

For Capt. Michelle L. Hamerla, 85th Mission Support Squadron military personnel flight commander, Keflavik, Iceland, her career broadening assignment as an Air Force ROTC instructor at Kent State University, Ohio in 1995 gave her a jump-start toward her graduate degree while also starting her down a path of diverse Air Force knowledge.

"My career broadening assignment experience gave me two years of close contact with offi-

ers from other career fields - for example, missileers and acquisitions officers," Hamerla said. "To be a good instructor, I had to know about all the career fields. I also had the opportunity to mentor young people and introduce them to military service by teaching in the classroom and recruiting both on campus and in the community. ROTC duty is really everything you put into it."

Doing well means being self-motivated, creative, excited and driven to do your best for the Air Force. People sometimes look at career broadening jobs with a "What will that do for me?" attitude. That's not right," Hamerla said. "It's really about, 'What can I do for this job? What can I do that will make a difference?' That's the attitude that will make a difference."

Officers need to look at their career pyramid, talk to their assignment managers and their supervisors to find out when it's appropriate for them to consider a career broadening assignment. Once that decision is made, they should indicate their special duty request on their Preference Worksheet and e-mail the point of contact here to let them know they are interested in a career broadening assignment.

"We're looking for officers with good attitudes, solid records and a willingness to go out and learn something new," Kelker said.

To find out more information, check out the Career Broadening Assignments site on the Air Force Personnel Center web page at:

<http://afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/careerbroad/careerbroad.htm>.



Strike!

Photo by Cadet Caroline Wellman

Staff Sgt. Charles Jones, 47th Flying Training Wing, makes his approach in a bowlathon July 7 at the Cactus Lanes bowling alley to raise funds for an enlisted combat dining out. The event raised money to surpass its goal of \$1,000.

Laughlin Sports

(Standings current as of Thursday)

Softball

Team	Wins	Losses
CES	5	1
CS/SVS/CONS	4	1
OSS #1	4	1
LCSAM	4	1
LSI	3	0
MDG #2	3	1
87 FTS	2	3
SFS	2	3
OSS #2	1	3
84/85 FTS	0	4
EAST	0	5
MDG #1	0	5

Golf

Team	Points
Fire Department	86
OSS	85
LCSAM	80.5
LSI #1	63

Softball games

Mon.

CS/SVS/CS vs LSI, 7 p.m.
OSS #1 vs EAST INC., 8 p.m.
MED GP #1 vs OSS #2, 9 p.m.

Wed.

COM/SVS/CS vs CES, 7 p.m.
SFS vs EAST INC., 8 p.m.
LCSAM vs LSI, 9 p.m.

Thurs.

87 FTS vs OSS #2, 7 p.m.
84/85 FTS vs CES, 8 p.m.
OSS #1 vs LSI, 9 p.m.



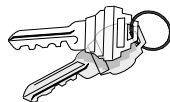
Photo by Amanda Stewart

Lifting!

Pat Turner, family member, takes advantage of the exercise equipment available at the XL Fitness Center as she gets in a few curls Tuesday. The XL Fitness Center is available to all active-duty, retired and civilian personnel.

If you're interested in writing short stories on intramural games for the "Around the Diamond" section of the Border Eagle, call 298-5393.

*Think safety:
Keep valuables secure!*



Youth baseball in Europe is cultural experience

By Tech. Sgt.
Ann Bennett

Air Force Print News

For the children from six countries taking part in the Youth International Major Division (baseball) Tournament at Ramstein Air Base last week, the experience was more than friendly competition. It was also a cultural learning experience.

Eighteen teams – 11 from the Kaiserslautern Military Community and one from Naval Air Station Rota in Spain, as well as teams from Holland, Belgium, Germany and France – competed in the 29th annual tournament.

At the end of four days of tournament play in which the winners of the four pools competed for first through fourth places, the Kinheim team from Holland defeated the NAS Rota team in the championship game, making this the second year in a row they've won the tournament.

Rota came in second followed by the Sembach Cubs, from Sembach Air Base in Germany, in third and the Pioneers, also from Holland, in fourth.

Wiyada Lee, 86th Services Squadron youth sports director, said this tournament is a good experience for American children as well as children from other countries.

"They not only enjoy playing baseball and learning about sportsmanship, they are exposed to other cultures as well."

For the tournament, local KMC teams host the teams from out of town, with local families taking in two or more visiting children as well as coaches into their homes.

"By hosting them at the homes," Lee continued, "they get to know each other better, learn each other's cultures and form friendships."

Cheryl Appel-Schumacher,

whose family hosted several children and coaches from a French team in their home, said, "We just love the cultural exchange aspects of playing baseball here. It's just a great way to pass on some American traditions with other countries."

She added that even though the language was a problem, they overcame it by using sign language and "just pointing to different things." She explained that video games are internationally famous and it helped to break the ice with the children.

As for the food, she learned that the children did not like tacos, but they loved the turkey dinner with mashed potatoes and gravy she prepared.

Tom Appel-Schumacher, coach of Ramstein's Orioles team, said that despite the differences in language and culture, overall it wasn't a problem because baseball is the

common language. "You see the similarities of the sport from country to country."

He added that this is a great tournament for European kids to learn about baseball, an American sport. He said not only do the kids learn all kinds of fine tips, but the coaches also get to talk to each other about strategies and to share funny stories.

"Connections are also made at this international tournament," continued Coach Appel-Schumacher, who also coaches the base's Ambassador team for 10- to 12-year-olds. He explained that the Ambassadors, who have been competing in a tournament in Paris each year, have been invited to another one in France.

The Ambassador team, which is open to boys and girls of all skill levels who want to play baseball, travels to various countries in Europe to compete in tournaments.

(Courtesy AFPN)

Air Force marathon

This September, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base will host the Fourth Annual U.S. Air Force Marathon.



Laughlin members are invited to represent the base at the event.

Marathon festivities begin Sept. 14 at 5 p.m. and run through to 5 p.m. Sept. 16.

The festivities include a sports exposition, pre-race pasta dinner, race day opening ceremony and an awards ceremony.

For more information, call the toll free number at (800) 467-1823, or check out the official website at <http://www.afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil>.

All Border Eagle submissions should be sent to bradley.pett@laughlin.af.mil or bradley.pett@laughlin.af.mil

Yard of the month winners

The Yard of the Month winners for July are:

Officer

Capt. Brian and Nicole Haines

Enlisted

Staff Sgt. Thomas and Marion Wade

Mobile home park

2nd Lt. Robert and Amy Altemus

Quarterly awards luncheon

A quarterly awards luncheon is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. July 26 at Club XL. Tickets are now on sale. All nominees and squadron commanders, please RSVP by calling 5358. All others see first sergeants to sign pro-rata. The last day to purchase tickets is July 24.

For more information, call Senior Airman Elizabeth L. Williams at 5078.

IG crossword puzzle

(Answers for past week's crossword)

